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DIVISION-CONTINUATION PROGRAM APPLICATION TRANSMITTAL FORM

Prior Application

Serial No.: 08/769,092 Filing Date: December 18, 1996

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Assignee: Command Audio Corporation

Examiner: B. Gregory Group Art Unit: 2202

Title: A Method And System For Information Dissemination Using Various Modes of Transmission

To the Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks:

This is a request to file a:

☒ continuation

☐ divisional

application under **37 CFR 1.60** of the above-named prior application.

Enclosed is a copy of the latest inventor-signed prior application, including the oath or declaration showing the signature or an indication it was signed. The enclosed papers are a true copy of the latest inventor-signed prior application, including the specification, claims, drawings and oath or declaration, and no amendments referred to in the oath or declaration filed to complete the prior application introduced new matter therein.

CLAIMS AND FILING FEES

- ☐ A Preliminary Amendment is enclosed.
- ☒ Cancel in this application claims 2-32 of the latest inventor-signed prior application before calculating the filing fee. (At least one independent claim must be retained for filing purposes.)
- ☐ Cancel in this application all claims of the latest inventor-signed prior application and substitute the claims contained in the attached Preliminary Amendment prior to calculating the filing fee.
- ☐ Add the additional claims in the attached Preliminary Amendment prior to calculating the filing fee.

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The filing fee is calculated as follows:

For	Number Filed			Number Extra			Rate		Fee
Total Claims	1	-20	=	0	x	\$11	=	\$	0.00
Independent Claims	1	-3	=	0	x	\$41	=	\$	0.00
Basic Filing Fee:								\$	395.00
<input type="checkbox"/>	Application contains one or more multiple dependent claims (\$135 total fee)							\$	0.00
TOTAL FILING FEE:								\$	395.00

Please make the following charges to Deposit Account 19-2386:

- ☒ Fee for filing the patent application in the amount of \$ 395.00
- ☐ An Extension of Time in the above-named prior application has been requested and the fees therefor have been authorized in said application.
- ☒ The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required, or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account 19-2386. A Return Receipt Postcard and triplicate copy of this sheet are enclosed.
- ☒ Amend the specification by inserting before the first line the sentence:
This application is a ☒ continuation ☐ division of application serial no. 08/769,092, filed December 18, 1996.
- ☒ New drawings are enclosed.
- ☒ Other enclosures: Information Disclosure Statement and form PTO-1449
- ☐ Priority of application serial no. ___ filed on ___ in ___ (country) is claimed under 35 USC 119. ☐ The certified copy has been filed in the latest inventor-signed prior application.
- ☒ Small Entity Declaration/Independent Inventor's Declaration ☒ has been filed in the latest inventor-signed prior application and its benefit under 37 CFR 1.28(a) is hereby claimed; ☐ is enclosed.
- ☒ The power of attorney in the above-named prior application is to
Gerow D. Brill (Reg. No. 34,554); and Norman R. Klivans (Reg. No. 33,003)
- ☒ The power appears in the original papers in the latest inventor-signed prior application.
- ☐ Since the power does not appear in the original papers, a copy of the power in the latest inventor-signed prior application is enclosed.

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A METHOD AND SYSTEM FOR INFORMATION DISSEMINATION USING
VARIOUS MODES OF TRANSMISSION

John O. Ryan

5 This is a Continuation-in-Part of application Serial No.
08/031763, filed 03/15/93 entitled RADIO RECEIVER FOR
INFORMATION DISSEMINATION USING SUBCARRIER by John O. Ryan.

BACKGROUND

This invention relates to a radio or television
10 broadcasting system for transmission of audio information to a
specially adapted receiver which converts the selected
transmitted audio information to a form usable by the user.

Numerous systems transmit information on FM radio
subcarriers. See for instance, U.S. Patent 5,152,011 issued to
15 Schwob, September 29, 1992. Also known is a single sideband
communication system with FM data capability for transmission
of analog voice signals. See U.S. Patent 4,852,086 issued to
Eastmond et al., July 20, 1989.

Also known is FM radio sideband broadcasting to specially
20 adapted computers for transmission for instance of news and
financial information. Commercially available products
available from Mainstream, Telemet, and DeskTop Data broadcast
data over FM radio sidebands for receipt by personal computers
equipped with special FM radio receivers and software.
25 Typically information is transmitted in digital form, received,
and stored in the computer memory for access by the computer
user using menu driven software. The data is displayed on the
computer screen in conventional alphanumeric form. One product
in this category is News Edge, a news service available from
30 DeskTop Data, Inc. of Waltham, Massachusetts which delivers a
number of news and financial information services to a user via
FM radio sideband. Software provided with the product scans
incoming information and when the incoming information meets

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parameters set by the user, the information is saved to disk and/or displayed on the computer screen.

These systems have the disadvantage of requiring a personal computer as a platform, and providing information only
5 on a computer screen. The usual computer skills are needed in order to operate such systems, which tend to be quite expensive.

Data can also be transmitted in the Vertical Blanking Interval of a TV transmission. The Federal Communications
10 Commission has set aside several lines of the Vertical Blanking Interval for point to multipoint data transmission which may be sold to interested users.

An additional channel of communication for data or audio transmission is the Separate Audio Program channel available in
15 television broadcasting.

All of these systems have disadvantage that the listener or user of the data must be tied down to a specific place or time to hear the information. The portable radio, be it hand held or in an automobile also limits the user to getting only
20 the information that is presently being transmitted.

SUMMARY

The system and method described below permits the user to listen to the specific content of information when and where he or she wants to. The present invention is directed to a method
25 and system for information dissemination using various modes of transmission that satisfies the needs of such a user. The invention includes a system for receiving information via a tuner that extracts digitized alphanumeric data or compressed audio data from the Vertical Blanking Interval of a television
30 station's video signal, the Separate Audio Program (SAP) signal from a television stations audio signal or a system for receiving the digitized alphanumeric data or compressed audio information via radio sidebands (subcarriers) which includes an FM subcarrier of an FM broadcast signal. In addition, a suitable

dedicated transmission facility could be used. Conditional access circuitry decrypts the previously encrypted digitized alphanumeric data or compressed audio data which is then stored in a random access memory. A user interface (either a simple 5 manual or voice control) driving a hierarchy of menus allows a user to access the information by indicating his selections from the menus. The system then extracts the information from the database in decrypted form. A voice activation device including a decompression system and a digital to analog 10 convertor (D/A) or other speech producing device converts the encrypted digitized audio information to an audio signal for provision to the user via a loud speaker or earphones.

This system may be stand alone or be a part of an existing radio receiver, sharing components of the radio receiver. One 15 embodiment of the user control is a four way switch (the positions corresponding for instance to the cursor control keys on a computer) for selection from and scanning through menus listing various categories of information. Typically the system includes either volatile RAM memory or a non-volatile 20 storage medium such as a digital audio tape, a magneto-optical mini-disk, a magnetic disk or optical disk, sufficient to store information for 10 or more hours of audio. The information is for example news, sports, weather, cultural information, advertisements, or commercial listings. The information is 25 transmitted in encrypted digital form using data compression techniques which is readily stored. The use of encryption techniques controls access to the information data base as a whole or to selected parts that the user has contracted for.

Other features are user control over the speed at which 30 the speech is outputted, and a channel skipping tuner for finding the particular FM radio station subcarrier, TV station vertical interval or TV station SAP channel on which the service is provided. The speech producing device may be under either automatic or user control to produce different speeds of 35 the voices. This control of the speed of the voice could be

one that changes the pitch or be one that changes the spacing between words. Also, the user has the opportunity to preselect database items, thereby to construct a personal profile so as to extract particular information without having to scan 5 through all the menus.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWING

These and other features and other aspects of the present invention will become better understood with reference to the following description, appended claims and accompanying 10 drawings where:

Figure 1 shows a block diagram of a receiving apparatus in accordance with the present invention; and

Figure 2 shows a block diagram of a transmission system in accordance with the present invention.

15

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Figure 1 shows a device in accordance with one embodiment of the invention. A broadcast signal is received from an antenna by 10 (as used in automobile or portable applications) which provides a received radio broadcast signal or television 20 video broadcast signal to a tuner 12. This tuner is either a FM Subcarrier tuner of the type well known in the art for extracting an FM broadcast subcarrier signal; a television tuner designed to produce the output of the Vertical Blanking Interval; a Separate Audio Program channel from a television 25 broadcast signal; or a dedicated radio channel. In the case of an FM subcarrier tuner, as is well known, the subcarrier signals are typically transmissions of digitized data on subcarriers leased from commercial FM stations. The Vertical Blanking Interval is already available for point to multipoint 30 transmission. The FM Subcarrier or the TV tuner 12 provides on line 14 the extracted digitized audio (which is typically encrypted) to conditional access circuitry 16.

A receiver sub-system converts digitized and encrypted alphanumeric data and compressed digitized audio data 14 from 35 the transmitter to an analog signal representing spoken words.

The tuner provides the data to the conditional access system 16 and microcontroller (controller) 20 described below.

Conditional access circuitry 16 ensures that the data is decrypted only if the proper key or command has been provided, 5 as described below. Conditional access circuitry 16 decrypts the received audio data (as authorized by microcontroller 20 over lines 22) on line 26 for storage to the memory 28 which may be conventional integrated circuit random access memory (RAM). In one embodiment the memory comprises volatile RAM 10 memory. In another embodiment this memory may consist of a non-volatile storage medium such as a digital audio tape, a magneto-optical mini-disk, a magnetic disk or an optical disk, with sufficient capacity to store information for 10 hours of audio.

15 In order to provide the needed quantity of audio data in a reasonable time frame and to minimize the memory requirement the original audio data is ideally passed through a data compression algorithm at the transmitting end to compress the data sufficiently for a narrow band data transmission channel. 20 This is shown in Figure 2, at 58 and will be discussed later. The receiving apparatus has a companion decompression algorithm, 39, at the output of the memory to provide the decompressed audio data to the digital to analog convertor for conversion of the digitized audio data to analog audio signals.

25 The conditional access system 16 and microcontroller 20 are described below. The encrypted compressed data output of the tuner is accessed under control of microcontroller (microprocessor) 20 via control signals at lines 22, to determine which particular items of data stored in memory 28 30 are to be provided via output line 43 to the decompression circuitry 39 via switch 45.

Much of the data that a user would use in such a system is in alphanumeric form that can be easily transmitted in that form and converted to audio via speech synthesis. Such data can 35 be transmitted in alphanumeric form for bandwidth and speed

considerations. In order to accommodate the dual transmission of alphanumeric data as well as audio data, switch 46 controlled by microcontroller 20 determines whether the system is responding to original alphanumeric data or compressed audio data. When alphanumeric data is being transmitted, the alphanumeric data is fed into a speech synthesizer 45 whose audio output is connected to switch 46 for connection of the audio output to audio amplifier 36 and loudspeaker 38.

In other embodiments, the received data is stored as encrypted data or in another convenient form and converted to a form usable by a speech producing device prior to being converted to speech. Each audio data item is "tagged" with an designation to allow retrieval of the stored encrypted audio data from the database.

User interface 40 inputs commands on line 42 to microcontroller 20 to determine which items of data from random access memory 28 are to be listened to.

The transmitted information is categorized, stored, and accessed in a conventional hierarchial database in memory 28 under control of microcontroller 20. A user interface (either a simple manual or voice control) driving a hierarchy of menus allows a user to access the information by indicating his selections from the menus.

In one embodiment user interface 40 is a voice activated command system. For instance the device is turned on and initialized by the user's spoken "ON" command. It then responds by vocally announcing via loud speaker 38 the major database categories available e.g. "NEWS", "SPORTS", "ENTERTAINMENT", etc. When the desired category has been announced the user responds by saying "YES". The device then announces again the sub-categories of the selected major category, and the user again selects the desired sub-category with a spoken "YES" until the specific item needed is accessed. For example, the category and sub-category path to the latest news regarding the General Motors Corporation might be "NEWS

... BUSINESS .. NATIONAL .. AUTOMOTIVE .. GM." The path to a review of the recent movie Aladdin might be "ENTERTAINMENT .. HOLLYWOOD .. MOVIE REVIEWS .. ALADDIN." Typically items will be reached after four or five "YES" responses from the user.

5 In one embodiment three additional spoken commands by the user such as "BACK" "STOP" and "GO" are sufficient to provide the user effective and rapid control of the system.

In another embodiment a manual input device such as a switch assembly having for instance four positions (up, down,
10 left, right) corresponding to the familiar cursor control on a computer, with each position indicating one of four commands, is provided for user manual operation. This switch may be adapted to attach to the steering wheel of an automobile, for use by the driver. The control is linked to the rest of the
15 device by wire, infrared, or ultrasonically, as is a conventional television remote control.

Another version uses a one-position control switch. The user briefly depresses the switch to select the category or item as announced or to scan through the menus. Briefly
20 depressing the switch while an actual data item is being read executes "stop." Depressing it again then executes "go." Holding the switch down for a second or two executes "back" at any time, to return to a predetermined point in the database.

For full effectiveness the information dissemination
25 device needs to be on 24 hours a day. In order to conserve power the received data could be first stored in random access memory (RAM) which consumes little power and when the RAM is full dumped to a more permanent storage medium such as a digital audio tape, a magneto-optical mini-disk, a magnetic
30 disk or an optical disk, sufficient to store information for 10 hours or more of audio. The speech producing device 30 may be a digital to analog convertor that converts digitized and decompressed audio data into understandable and well modulated audio analog signals. The audio analog signals are provided on

line 34 to a conventional audio amplifier 36 and hence to a loud speaker or earphones 38 to be listened to by the user. The tuner 12, microcontroller 20, conditional access circuitry 16 and memory 28 typically remain powered at all times (by battery 5 power if necessary) to receive a continuous update of the broadcast database, and thereby to store current news in memory 28.

When using the Vertical Blanking Interval, it is possible to transmit at a rate of 2 megabits per second on 6 Vertical 10 Blanking Interval lines each with a 50 microseconds duration to provide a 24,000 bit per second channel with a 50% error correction overhead. In one version the device of Figure 1 is a portable unit (similar to a portable radio) and includes the user voice or manual interface. In another embodiment the 15 device of Figure 1 is built into a conventional portable radio or automobile radio, sharing where possible common components.

In one embodiment user interface 40 has a speed control to determine the output speed of speech output. The Digital to analog convertor 30 or the Speech synthesizer 44 may receive 20 information faster than normal speaking speed. It is well known that people can understand speech at faster than normal speech rates. Thus the user by pushing a button on the receiver unit or providing the proper verbal command increases the speech speed, so as to obtain information faster, analogous 25 to skimming printed material. This speeding up can use well known techniques that change the pitch or eliminates the gaps between words. A similar slowing down approach can be used in case the user wants to carefully note what is being said for example while taking notes.

30 In the embodiment using a voice activated user interface 40, the number of commands provided is limited (for instance to 5 to 10) and hence a relatively simple commercially available voice input recognition circuit is sufficient.

In another embodiment, the user interface for an 35 automobile-based system is associated with a heads-up display,

requiring receipt of a key and decryption of the data with decryption circuitry. Hence unauthorized units without such dedicated decryption circuitry would not be operative at all.

In one embodiment of an encryption system, (analogous to
5 pay-per-view cable TV encryption), decryption keys are delivered by radio transmission. Each individual receiver unit has a unique "hidden" key of for instance 40 to 50 binary digits in read only memory. Each unit also has a "public" non hidden serial number. All transmitted data is conventionally
10 encrypted using a master key which is changed periodically, both to force users to pay for the service and to enhance security. Each receiver unit must receive a master key to decrypt the data transmission.

The master key is transmitted to each unit as follows:

15 Periodically, the transmission of the data is interrupted to transmit key information. The key information is a series of packets, one packet for each individual receiver unit, with each packet including (1) an address field which is the public serial number of a particular unit; followed by (2) a second
20 field which is the current master key encrypted with the unique "hidden key" of the unit having that particular serial number.

The receivers look for these packets (which are denoted by a particular signature or occur at particular times to avoid confusion with the data). When a particular unit receives the
25 packet including its own address (public serial number), it stores and decrypts the subsequent encrypted master key field, thereby obtaining the master key, in order to decrypt subsequent encrypted data.

In a second encryption system embodiment, a uniquely
30 encrypted master key for each individual receiver is physically delivered to each user periodically (such as once a month). The key could be entered into each unit by a keypad, or the key could be embodied in an electronically readable card or device inserted into a suitable port in the receiver.

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In another embodiment, speech output device 30 is controlled to provide a variety of particular voices. These voices are selected by the user, i.e. to be male/female or other voices, or the system is programmed via microcontroller 5 20 to select different voices for different types of or categories of information.

The device of Figure 1 as incorporated in a conventional radio or television receiver uses the antenna of the radio or television receiver. The tuner 12 may be in addition to the 10 conventional radio or television tuner or could be part of the radio or television tuner. The other blocks of Figure 1 (with the exception of amplifier 36 and loud speaker 38) are unique to this system and are added components to a conventional radio or television receiver.

15 Another embodiment may encompass all of the elements of the receiver except the control and audio in a device stored in the trunk of an automobile similar to CD music systems with an output mini radio transmitter tuned to an unused FM or AM radio channel. This radio transmitter output would be coupled to the 20 standard automobile radio antenna for outputting of the audio signal to the user.

Another embodiment of the receiver may provide for the reception and storage of the received data on a home base unit wherein the received data is stored on a disk storage as 25 discussed above and the disk is played back on the portable automobile unit. A further embodiment of this feature could encompass a home base unit containing all the features of an automobile unit and can be unplugged from the home base and plugged into the automobile unit for continuing use while the 30 user is in the automobile.

The transmitting portion of the system is described in Figure 2 indicating the following steps. The Data Generating portion 51 contains the usual human elements of News and Information Gathering step 55 with the News and Information 35 Classified and formatted step 56, i.e. a data producing sub-

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system. For the audio transmission, this news and information is spoken into the electronics portions beginning with the A/D convertor 60 which converts the analog audio signals to a digital audio. The digitized audio is compressed for bandwidth considerations in data compressor 57. The compressed digitized audio is encrypted in encryptor 58 according to instructions from a Billing/ Subscriber system 55. The Encrypted digital audio establishes a data base of digitized audio data.

When it is advantageous to use alphanumeric information, the alphanumeric information is put in a form for transmission and encrypted. Switch 61 which can be controlled by an operator determines whether the system transmits compressed digitized audio or alphanumeric information. The Data is sent by a transmission path such as a dedicated telephone line 63 to a transmission station such as an existing radio and television station. 50 In order to provide the needed quantity of audio data in a reasonable time frame the audio data must be passed through a data compression algorithm at the transmitting end to compress the audio data sufficiently for a narrow band data transmission channel. This is show as 58 in Figure 2.

In addition to data compression, since the transmission facility is not transmitting the information in a "live" fashion as with most broadcasting facilities, it can maximize the use of the available bandwidth of transmission by not only using the above mentioned data compression techniques, but can transmit the data at a rate unrelated to the speed of speech. The speed of transmission of the data can be faster than the "real time" speech when bandwidth considerations permit. In addition, the speed of transmission can be slower than the "real time" speech if a narrower bandwidth is available. This variation in transmission speed affects the time required to transmit a given amount of information. The completed data is inserted into the FM subcarrier, Separate Audio Program channel or the television vertical interval according to the type of transmission channel chosen using a data insertion device .

In order to accommodate the fact that some subscribers may not have their units on when certain data is transmitted, it is apparent that the sending facility will need to update the data base from time to time during the day even if no new
5 information has been generated. The data for a particular story or article will need to have a date stamp to indicate to the user the currency of the information. These and other logistical features will become apparent with the use of the system.

10 The above description is illustrative and not limiting; further modifications will be apparent to one of ordinary skill in the art.

SECRET

CLAIMS

I claim:

1. A receiver adapted to receive data contained in a transmitted broadcast signal comprising:
 - 5 a tuner for extracting data from a broadcast signal;
 - a memory coupled to the tuner for storing the extracted data as a database;
 - a user interface for providing a set of menus describing the database, and for accepting selections from
 - 10 the set of menus;
 - a controller coupled to the database for selecting data from the database in response to the accepted selections and providing the selected data in a digital form; and
 - 15 a speech producing sub-system for converting the selected data from the digital form to an analog signal representing an original audio signal.
2. The device of Claim 1, wherein the tuner extracts h data from an FM broadcast radio station carrier.
- 20 3. The device of Claim 1, wherein the tuner extracts h data from a television broadcast station carrier.
4. The device of Claim 3, wherein the tuner extracts h data from a vertical blanking interval of the broadcast television station carrier.
- 25 5. The device of Claim 3, wherein the tuner extracts h data from a Separate Audio Programming channel of the television station carrier.
6. The device of Claim 1, wherein the memory stores the entire database.

7. The device of Claim 1, wherein the memory comprises a combination of a volatile RAM memory and a non-volatile memory.

8. The device of Claim 7, wherein the non-volatile
5 memory is selected from the group consisting of a audio tape, a magneto-optical mini-disk, a magnetic disk or an optical disk,

9. The device of Claim 1, wherein the received data is audio data that has been converted from analog form to digital
10 form.

10. The device of Claim 9, wherein the received digitized audio data is digitized and has been compressed.

11. The device of claim 9, wherein the digitized audio data has been encrypted.

15 12. The device of Claim 1, wherein the received data is alphanumeric data that has been converted from analog form to digital form.

13. The device of claim 12, wherein the alphanumeric data is converted to voice data by a speech synthesizer.

20 14. The device of Claim 1, wherein the extracted data is in digital form, has been encrypted and compressed, and further comprising a decryptor for providing conditional access and decrypting the extracted data.

15. The device of Claim 14 wherein said system has a
25 decompression algorithm to decompress data that has been compressed at a transmitter.

16. The device of Claim 14 wherein the decryptor is enabled by a key received by the tuner.

15. The device of Claim 14, wherein the decryptor is enabled by a key device operatively connected to the decryptor.

5 17. The device of Claim 1, wherein the user interface is
voice activated.

18. The device of Claim 1, wherein the user interface includes:

10 a manual input device adapted to be mountable on an
 automobile steering wheel; and

a link from the manual input device to the controller.

19. The device of Claim 1, wherein the user interface includes a control for determining a speed at which the speech
15 output device outputs the analog signal.

20. The device of Claim 1, wherein the tuner includes means for channel skip tuning to a particular transmitter.

21. The device of Claim 1, further comprising:
an amplifier connected to the speech producing
20 device for amplifying the analog signal; and
means for converting the amplified signal to sound.

22. The device of Claim 1, further comprising means for connecting the receiving system to an automobile radio set.

23. The device of Claim 1, further comprising means for
25 designating by the broadcaster a hierarchy for the database.

24. The device of claim 1, wherein a power saving technique comprises storing said digital data received in a RAM memory up to the capacity of the RAM before transferring said digital data to a storage means from the group consisting of 5 disk medium or tape medium.

25. The device of claim 24, wherein said tape medium is a digital audio tape.

26. The device of claim 24, wherein said disk medium is a magnetic disk.

10 27. The device of claim 24, wherein said disk medium is a magnetic-optical disk.

28. The device of claim 24, wherein said disk medium is an optical disk.

29. The device of claim 1, wherein a speed of transmission
15 of said data can be varied to most efficiently use the available bandwidth.

30. A method for information dissemination using various modes of transmission for transmitting alphanumeric or audio data comprising the steps of:

- 20 converting said audio data to digital audio data;
 converting said alphanumeric data to digital alphanumeric data;
 establishing a data base of digitized data with menus for selection of particular segments of said data
25 base;
 compressing said digital audio data;
 encrypting said compressed digital data;
 encrypting said digitized alphanumeric data;

selecting between digital alphanumeric data and
compressed audio data;
transmitting said selected data;
extracting the data from the transmitted signal;
5 providing a memory;
storing the extracted data in the memory as a
database;
providing a set of menus describing the database;
selecting items from the set of menus;
10 providing portions of the stored data in response to
the selected items from said menus;
decrypting said encrypted data;
selecting digitized alphanumeric data or compressed
data;
15 decompressing said compressed digital data;
converting the provided portions from the digital
form to a first analog signal representing audio signals;
converting alphanumeric digitized data to second
analog signal representing spoken words; and
20 outputting said first and second analog signals for
human hearing.

31. A receiver comprising:

means for extracting data from a transmitted
signal;
25 means for storing the extracted data as a database;
means for providing a set of menus describing the
database, and for accepting selections from the set of
menus;
means for selecting data from the database in
30 response to the accepted selections;
means for providing the selected data in encrypted,
compressed and digital form;
means for decrypting the selected data;
means for decompressing the decrypted data;

means for converting the digital data to analog audio data; and

means for outputting audio originally transmitted for human hearing.

5 32. A system for information dissemination using various modes of transmission to transmit audio data comprising:

 a data producing sub-system for converting analog audio information to digital data and a database with menus;

10 a data compressor for compressing the encrypted audio data; and

 an encryptor for encrypting the digital audio data;

 a means for inserting the compressed encrypted digital audio data into a transmission channel;

15 a tuner means for receiving the transmitted compressed encrypted digital audio data;

 a memory means for storing the selected data in the database;

20 a means for providing a set of menus to a user describing the database, and a means for updating the data in the database;

25 a controller means for selecting data from the database in response to the accepted selections and providing the selected data in the encrypted compressed digital form; and

 a decrypting means for decrypting the encrypted compressed digital audio data;

 a decompressing means for decompressing the compressed digital audio data; and

30 a means for converting the digital audio data to analog audio data representing the audio originally transmitted.

A METHOD AND SYSTEM FOR INFORMATION DISSEMINATION USING
VARIOUS MODES OF TRANSMISSION

John O. Ryan

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

5 A system and method of information dissemination that
permits the user to listen to the specific content of
information when and where he or she wants to. A radio or
television receiver system receives information from a FM
subcarrier, a television vertical blanking interval
10 transmission, a television separate audio program transmission
or a dedicated channel and stores the transmitted information
in a memory. A user interface allows selection from the memory
of the stored information via a set of menus controlling a
hierarchical database, so as to access particular items of
15 information. Typically the system includes RAM and/or a
storage medium such as a digital audio tape, a magneto-optical
mini-disk, a magnetic disk or optical disk, sufficient to store
information for 10 hours of audio. A decompression device,
accepts the accessed compressed digital audio information items
20 which may have been encrypted and transforms them into spoken
speech. The user interface is either by voice or a single or
multi-position switch allowing scanning through and selection
from the menu items. The signal for such a device is generated
by converting analog audio signals into a digital audio data
25 stream which may be encrypted. The encrypted digital data
stream is compressed and inserted on the radio or television
carrier via an FM Subcarrier, the television vertical interval
or the separate audio program channel of a television
transmitter. The system is also capable of transmitting
30 alphanumeric data and converting this alphanumeric to a voice
form using a speech synthesizer.

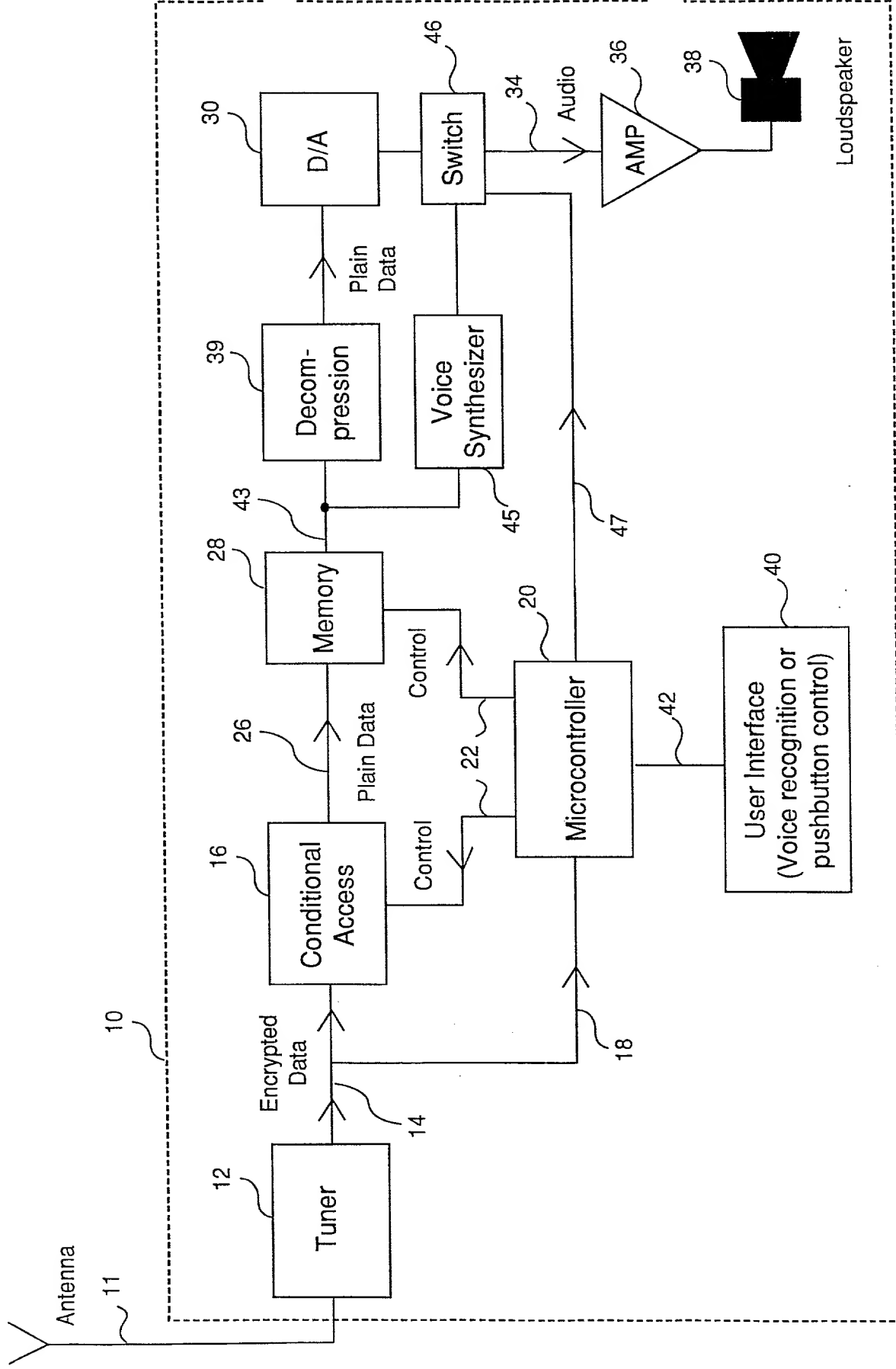


Figure 1

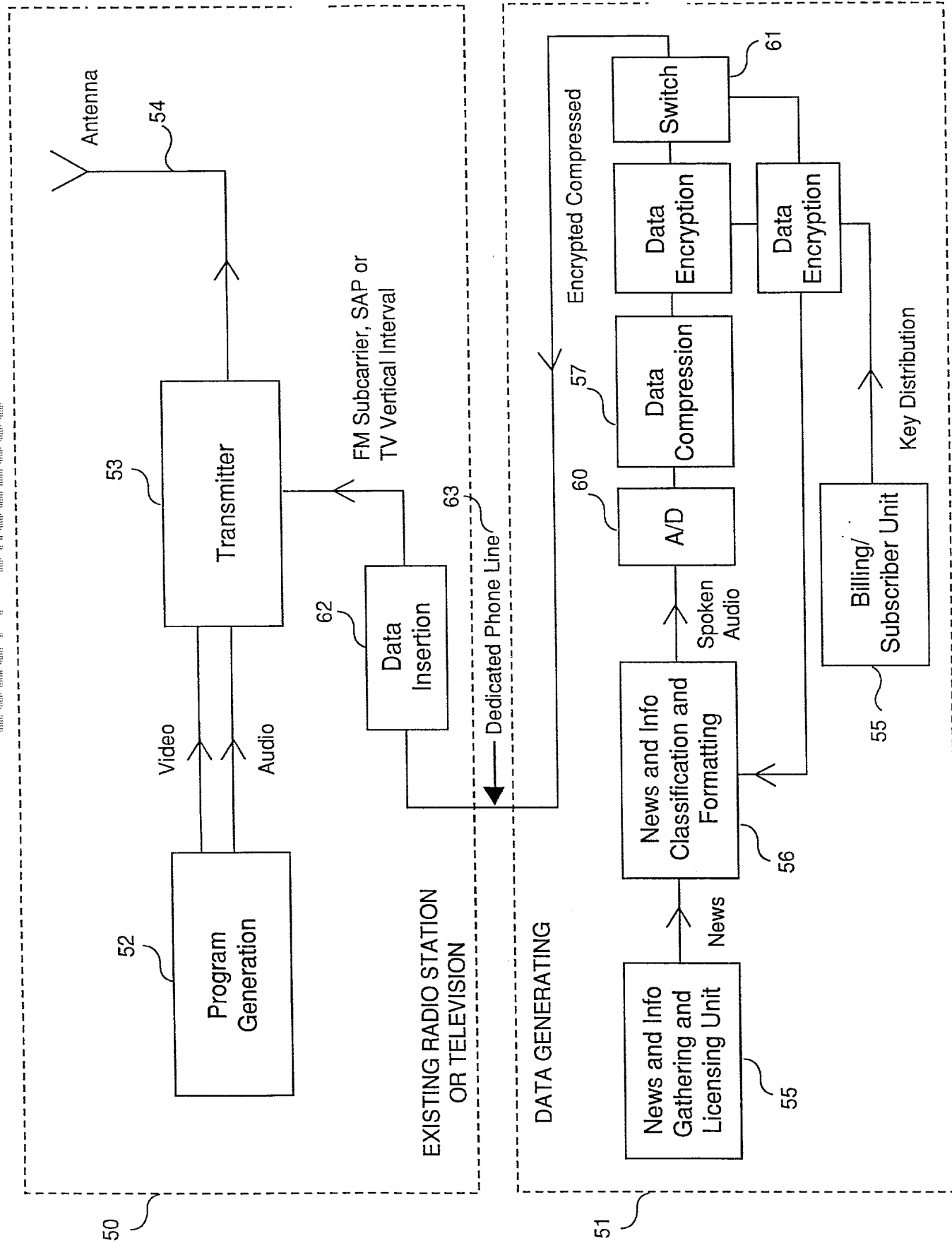


Figure 2

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Attorney Docket # 32-GB-US

COMMISSIONER OF PATENTS and TRADEMARKS
BOX PATENT APPLICATION
WASHINGTON, DC 20231

January 12, 1994

COMBINATION DECLARATION AND POWER OF ATTORNEY

SIR:

As a below named inventor, I hereby declare that:

This declaration is for an original application; My residence, post office address and citizenship are as stated below next to my name; I believe I am the original, first and sole inventor of "A METHOD AND SYSTEM FOR INFORMATION DISSEMINATION USING VARIOUS MODES OF TRANSMISSION", the specification of which is attached hereto.

I hereby state that I have received and understand the contents of the above identified specification, including the claims, as amended by any amendment referred to above. I acknowledge the duty to disclose information which is material to patentability as defined in 37 Code of Federal regulations sec. 1.56 and which is material to the examination of this application, namely information where there is a substantial likelihood that a reasonable examiner would consider it important in deciding whether to allow the application to issue as a patent.

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[illegible]

Signature of person mailing paper